PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.173(b)

REMARKS

Each of the amendments to original Claims 8, 9, 10, 12, 13 and 20 is made for the purpose of clarifying the language of the existing claims, or to correct obvious typographical errors, without substantively changing the scope of any of the original claims. Support for the amended claims is thus provided in the original patent claims, and no question of new matter should arise.

Support for the amendment to the specification at col. 17, line 4 to col. 18, line 19 is found in the patent at col. 17, line 4 to col. 18, line 19, and at col. 18, line 39 to col. 19, line 35.

The amendment to the specification corrects obvious spelling, grammatical and typographical errors, including the spelling of "solubility" at col. 17, lines 7, 30, and "cyclopentyl" at col. 17, line 64 and col. 18, line 13, and the correction of language specifying that different R groups may be linked to each other at col. 17, lines 41-42, 61-62, to conform this description with, *e.g.*, col. 17, lines 62-63 and col. 18, lines 9-10.

The amendment of the definition of R^5 to R^{10} as each independently representing an alkyl group or aryl group (col. 17, line 50) is supported by the following specific examples, which include a phenyl group and a naphthyl group, both of which are aryl groups.

The amendment of the definition of R^{12}, which specifies that when *m* is 2 or more, plural R^{12} groups may be the same or different (col. 17, lines 62-63), is supported by the cyanine dyes shown structurally in cols. 18-19. For example, in cyanine dye A, *m* is 2,

and the two R^{12} groups form a six-membered ring to which the chlorine atom is attached. Consonant with the definition of R^{11}, R^{12} and R^{13} as respectively representing any of a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, a chlorine atom, a cyclohexyl group, a cyclopentyl ring, or a cyclohexyl ring obtained by combining R^{12} groups, the definition of plural R^{12} groups as being the same or different is also supported.

The amendment specifying that "when *m* is 2 or more, a plurality of R^{14} groups, which may be the same or different, may be linked to each other to form a ring" (col. 18, lines 10-12) corrects an obvious typographical error in which R^{14} was erroneously described as R^{12}. The amendment is supported by the following disclosure, where a cyclopentyl ring or a cyclohexyl ring is obtained by combining R^{14} groups, and it is evident that these rings are formed by combining two R^{14} groups. The recitation that the two R^{14} groups may be the same or different is supported by the description of R^{14} as including various alkyl groups having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, which may be substituted, including the specifically illustrated cyclopentyl ring formed by two different R^{14} groups. In the specifically illustrated dyes, such as Cyanine Dye A at col. 18, lines 45-55, plural R^{14} groups (a hydrogen atom and a chlorine atom) are different groups, when *m* is 2.

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No question of new matter should arise, and entry of the amendment to the specification is respectfully requested.

Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth Burchfiel

for MARK BOLAND
Registration No. 32,197

Reg 31,333

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

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